

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LUBBOCK DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Case No. 5:06-CV-043-C
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF CONSENT
)	DECREE
HALE COUNTY, TEXAS;)	
et al.)	
)	
Defendants.)	

The United States files this notice to inform the Court of the status of the Consent Decree in the above-captioned case.

On February 27, 2006, the United States filed a Complaint against Hale County, Texas; then-County Clerk Diane Williams in her official capacity; and the Hale County Commissioners Court. The Complaint alleged that Defendants had failed to comply with Sections 203 and 208 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973aa-1a & 1973aa-6, arising from Hale County's election practices and procedures as they affect Spanish-speaking voters. On April 27, 2006, the Court entered a Consent Decree resolving the claims. See Consent Decree (Modified), Judgment, and Order, 06-CV-043-C (Apr. 27, 2006) (modified on May 5, 2006).

The United States has monitored the Defendants' compliance with the terms of the Consent Decree, and the parties have discussed the Defendants' plans for complying with applicable provisions of federal law in the future.

The Consent Decree is set to expire on December 31, 2009. See Consent Decree, ¶ 22. The parties are in agreement that further court oversight is not needed, and that the Consent Decree should be permitted to expire. The United States will not be seeking to extend the

Decree in this case.

Date: 17th day of December, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ John Albert Russ IV

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On December 17, 2009, I electronically submitted the foregoing document with the clerk of the court for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, using the electronic case filing system of the court. I hereby certify that I have served all counsel and/or pro se parties of record electronically or by another manner authorized by the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5(b)(2).

/s/ John Albert Russ IV

JOHN ALBERT RUSS IV